

In the Claims

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims are set forth below, whether or not an amendment is made. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A system for application development, the system comprising:
- a plurality of programming entities comprising:
 - ~~a workflow;~~
 - a run-time container operable to execute ~~the workflow~~ a workflow, the workflow comprising a plurality of workflow steps; and
 - a design-time container operable to edit the workflow; and
 - a contract specifying an interaction between a workflow step and a ~~at least two~~ programming entities entity, the interaction comprising a service that the programming entity provides for the workflow step when the workflow step is executed, the workflow step and the contract operable to be used for a next workflow.
2. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein:
- an interactive voice response unit comprises the run-time container; and
 - the workflow is operable to direct the operation of the interactive voice response unit.
3. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the contract specifies a service provided by the run-time container to the workflow.
4. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1 wherein the contract specifies a service provided by the design-time container to the workflow.
5. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein:
- the workflow comprises a workflow step, the workflow step operable to be used in a plurality of workflows;
 - the workflow step comprises a variable;
 - a workflow task of the workflow provides a value; and
 - the contract associates the variable with the value.

6. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein:
the run-time container comprises a workflow subsystem operable to retrieve an execution context for the workflow; and
the contract specifies the execution context.
7. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein:
the workflow comprises a workflow step operable to direct an interactive voice response unit to play a message specified in a message variable;
a workflow task of the workflow provides a message value corresponding to the message; and
the contract associates the message value with the message variable.
8. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein:
the workflow comprises a workflow step operable to direct an interactive voice response unit to retrieve data specified in a data variable;
a workflow task of the workflow provides a data value corresponding to the data; and
the contract associates the data value with the data variable.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A method for application development, the method comprising:

defining a plurality of programming entities comprising:

~~a workflow;~~

a run-time container operable to execute ~~the workflow~~ a workflow, the workflow comprising a plurality of workflow steps; and

a design-time container operable to edit the workflow; and

defining a contract specifying an interaction between a workflow step and a at least two programming entities entity, the interaction comprising a service that the programming entity provides for the workflow step when the workflow step is executed, the workflow step and the contract operable to be used for a next workflow.

10. **(Original)** The method of Claim 9, further comprising directing the operation of an interactive voice response unit using the workflow, the interactive voice response unit comprising the run-time container.

11. **(Original)** The method of Claim 9, further comprising:
defining the contract specifying a service provided by the run-time container to the workflow; and
executing the workflow using the run-time container.

12. **(Original)** The method of Claim 9, further comprising:
defining the contract specifying a service provided by the design-time container to the workflow; and
editing the workflow using the design-time container.

13. **(Original)** The method of Claim 9, further comprising defining the contract associating a variable with a value, a workflow task providing the value and a workflow step, the workflow step operable to be used in a plurality of workflows and comprising the variable.

14. **(Original)** The method of Claim 9, further comprising:
defining the contract specifying an execution context for the workflow; and
retrieving the execution context using the run-time container.

15. **(Original)** The method of Claim 9, further comprising:
defining the workflow comprising a workflow step directing an interactive voice
response unit to play a message specified in a message variable, a workflow task providing a
message value corresponding to the message;
defining the contract associating the message value with the message variable; and
playing the message.

16. **(Original)** The method of Claim 9, further comprising:
defining the workflow comprising a workflow step directing an interactive voice
response unit to retrieve data specified in a data variable, a workflow task providing a data
value corresponding to the data;
defining the contract associating the data value with the data variable; and
retrieving the data.

17. **(Currently Amended)** Application development software embodied in a computer-readable medium and operable to perform the following:

defining a plurality of programming entities comprising:

~~a workflow;~~

a run-time container operable to execute ~~the workflow~~ a workflow, the workflow comprising a plurality of workflow steps; and

a design-time container operable to edit the workflow; and

defining a contract specifying an interaction between a workflow step and a at least two programming entities entity, the interaction comprising a service that the programming entity provides for the workflow step when the workflow step is executed, the workflow step and the contract operable to be used for a next workflow.

18. **(Original)** The application development software of Claim 17, further operable to perform directing the operation of an interactive voice response unit using the workflow, the interactive voice response unit comprising the run-time container.

19. **(Original)** The application development software of Claim 17, further operable to perform:

defining the contract specifying a service provided by the run-time container to the workflow; and

executing the workflow using the run-time container.

20. **(Original)** The application development software of Claim 17, further operable to perform:

defining the contract specifying a service provided by the design-time container to the workflow; and

editing the workflow using the design-time container.

21. **(Original)** The application development software of Claim 17, further operable to perform defining the contract associating a variable with a value, a workflow task providing the value and a workflow step, the workflow step operable to be used in a plurality of workflows and comprising the variable.

22. **(Original)** The application development software of Claim 17, further operable to perform:

defining the contract specifying an execution context for the workflow; and
retrieving the execution context using the run-time container.

23. **(Original)** The application development software of Claim 17, further operable to perform:

defining the workflow comprising a workflow step directing an interactive voice response unit to play a message specified in a message variable, a workflow task providing a message value corresponding to the message;

defining the contract associating the message value with the message variable; and
playing the message.

24. **(Original)** The application development software of Claim 17, further operable to perform:

defining the workflow comprising a workflow step directing an interactive voice response unit to retrieve data specified in a data variable, a workflow task providing a data value corresponding to the data;

defining the contract associating the data value with the data variable; and
retrieving the data.

25. **(Currently Amended)** A system for application development, the system comprising:

means for defining a plurality of programming entities comprising:

~~a workflow;~~

a run-time container operable to execute ~~the workflow~~ a workflow, the workflow comprising a plurality of workflow steps; and

a design-time container operable to edit the workflow; and

means for defining a contract specifying an interaction between a workflow step and a at least two programming entities entity, the interaction comprising a service that the programming entity provides for the workflow step when the workflow step is executed, the workflow step and the contract operable to be used for a next workflow.

26. **(Original)** The system of Claim 25, further comprising means for directing the operation of an interactive voice response unit using the workflow, the interactive voice response unit comprising the run-time container.

27. **(Original)** The system of Claim 25, further comprising:
means for defining the contract specifying a service provided by the run-time container to the workflow; and
means for executing the workflow using the run-time container.

28. **(Original)** The system of Claim 25, further comprising:
means for defining the contract specifying a service provided by the design-time container to the workflow; and
means for editing the workflow using the design-time container.

29. **(Original)** The system of Claim 25, further comprising means for defining the contract associating a variable with a value, a workflow task providing the value and a workflow step, the workflow step operable to be used in a plurality of workflows and comprising the variable.

30. **(Original)** The system of Claim 25, further comprising:
means for defining the contract specifying an execution context for the workflow; and
means for retrieving the execution context using the run-time container.

31. **(Original)** The system of Claim 25, further comprising:
means for defining the workflow comprising a workflow step directing an interactive voice response unit to play a message specified in a message variable, a workflow task providing a message value corresponding to the message;
means for defining the contract associating the message value with the message variable; and
means for playing the message.

32. **(Original)** The system of Claim 25, further comprising:
means for defining the workflow comprising a workflow step directing an interactive voice response unit to retrieve data specified in a data variable, a workflow task providing a data value corresponding to the data;
means for defining the contract associating the data value with the data variable; and
means for retrieving the data.

33. **(Currently Amended)** A system for application development, the system comprising:

- a plurality of programming entities comprising:
 - a workflow step operable to:
 - direct an interactive voice response unit to play a message specified in a message variable;
 - direct the interactive voice response unit to retrieve data specified in a data variable;
 - a workflow comprising the workflow step;
 - a workflow task providing a message value corresponding to the message and a data value corresponding to the data;
 - a run-time container operable to execute the workflow;
 - a design-time container operable to edit the workflow;
- a contract associating:
 - the message value with the message variable; and
 - the data value with the data variable, the contract specifying an interaction between the workflow step and the run-time container, the interaction comprising a service that the run-time container provides for the workflow step when the workflow step is executed, the workflow step and the contract operable to be used for a next workflow.